



## RESOLUTION

URGING THE MAYOR TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION IN THE OFFICE OF HOUSING.

WHEREAS, the homeless population is on the increase in the city and county of Honolulu ("city") as more residents compete for fewer jobs that frequently do not pay enough to afford even the most basic housing; and

WHEREAS, the critical lack of affordable housing contributes to the skyrocketing number of homeless persons as even with federal housing subsidies, the private market has not been able to absorb all the people needing housing, and many resort to makeshift camps for shelter; and

WHEREAS, economic distress, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, and debilitating medical problems are factors in homelessness; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 Homeless Point-in-Time Count, which was a collaborative effort by the city, state, and private service providers, there were 4,171 persons homeless in the city on January 25, 2010, a 14.7 increase from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, in June 2010, the U.S. Interagency on Homelessness challenged cities to take an active lead in addressing their homeless issues; and

WHEREAS, a recent charter amendment approved in the 2010 General Election establishes an Office of Housing in the mayor's office, with responsibility for the coordination of housing projects; and

WHEREAS, transition provisions concerning the establishment of the Office of Housing states, "At the close of June 30, 2011, the department of community services' powers, duties, and functions relating to affordable housing, senior housing, special needs housing, and homelessness shall be transferred to and assumed by the office of housing effective July 1, 2011"; and

WHEREAS, the council believes that a Homeless Services Division would complement the Office of Housing, while coordinating homeless services and addressing the impacts of homelessness citywide; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the mayor is urged to create a task force to study the feasibility of establishing a Homeless Services Division in the Office of Housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force report its findings and recommendations to the council no later than December 1, 2011; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor and the managing director.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Don Kahaney*  
*Ray M. Burt*  
*John H. ...*  
*...*  
*Cheryl Habel Tamago*  
*Walt ...*  
*Tom BERG*

12:59 PM 1/20/11  
CITY OF HONOLULU  
CLERK

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 20 2011

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers